

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed November 8, 2004.

Claim status is:

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application prior to entry of the present amendment.

Claims 1-20 have been canceled.

New claims 21-53 have been added.

Claims 21-53 are now pending.

Rejections Under Section 112

Claims 9-20 were rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 9-20 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 3 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New claim 31 includes the limitations of original claims 1 and 3. Therefore claim 31 and its dependent claims are allowable.

The Examiner also states that claims 9-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the section 112 rejections and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New claims 38-42 include the limitations of claims 9-11 and 19-20, respectively, and have been written to overcome the section 112 rejections of claims 9-11 and 19-20. New claims 45-51 include the limitations of claims 12-18, respectively, and have been written to overcome the section 112 rejections of claims 12-18. Applicant presents reasons below as to why new claims 38-53 are allowable without including the limitations of the base claim (original claim 1).

Rejections Under Section 102

Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Laniepce et al. (USPN 6,157,766, hereinafter referred to simply as Laniepce).

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dietz, Jr. et al. (USPN 5,394,503, hereinafter referred to simply as Dietz).

Claims 1-8 have been canceled.

New claim 21 recites:

A distributor comprising:
a first set of connectors for connecting to a first set of external cables;
a second set of connectors for connecting to a second set of external cables;
at least one jumper cable that connects between a connector of the first set of connectors and a connector of the second set of connectors for providing a connection between one of the first set of external cables and one of the second set of external cables; and
a mechanism configured to disconnect a first end of the jumper cable from a first connector of the first set of connectors and to reconnect the first end to a second connector of the first set of connectors.

Neither Laniepce nor Dietz either singly or in combination disclose or render obvious a distributor comprising “a mechanism configured to disconnect a first end of the jumper cable from a first connector of the first set of connectors and to reconnect the first end to a second connector of the first set of connectors”. In fact, Laniepce and Dietz are silent on the use of any mechanism to connect or disconnect a jumper cable.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 21 and its dependent claims are non-obvious and patentably distinguished over Laniepce and Dietz for at least the reasons given above.

Claim 38 includes the limitations of original claim 9, rewritten to overcome the section 112 rejections. Claim 38 recites in pertinent part:

- “a) moving a device into a storage area, wherein the device is configured to connect and disconnect jumper fibers;
- b) using the device to disconnect a first end of a jumper fiber connected to a second support on a first cross-connection panel in the storage area;
- c) using the device to move the first end of the jumper fiber toward a first support on the first cross-connection panel;
- d) using the device to connect the first end of the jumper fiber to a port of a module on the first support;
- e) moving the device into the storage area;
- f) using the device to disconnect a second end of the jumper fiber connected to a second support on a second cross-connection panel in the storage area;
- g) using the device to move the second end of the jumper fiber toward the first support on the second cross-connection panel; and
- h) using the device to connect the second end of the jumper fiber to a port of a module on the first support on the second cross-connection panel”.

Laniepce and Dietz are silent on the use of any device to “connect and disconnect jumper fibers”. Therefore claim 38 and its dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons given above.

Claim 45 recites in pertinent part:

“moving a device into an area between a first support on a first cross-connection panel and a first support on a second cross-connection panel, wherein the device is configured to connect and disconnect jumper fibers”.

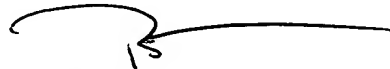
Laniepce and Dietz are silent on the use of any device to “connect and disconnect jumper fibers”. Therefore claim 45 and its dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5957-01100/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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